

primary (the fourth and fifth primaries are longest in this species) appears to be nearly full grown and the longest tail feathers appear to be full grown as I cannot find traces of a sheath at their base. I may add that virtually all the feathers of the body are very fresh and unbleached.

Discussion: Hartert (1924, *Novitates Zool.*, vol. 31, p. 9) has discussed the specimen from Taberghi and says it may represent a new subspecies but that he could not decide because the difference [in coloration] might be individual and that he was "convinced" it had been wrongly sexed, adding "should it be a male, it would of course be a very much smaller form! [than nominate *nuba*]." Apparently, the females of *Neotis nuba* differ from the males only by being smaller, but Hartert's belief that Buchanan's bird is a female is only an assumption, though perhaps correct. Buchanan was a most conscientious collector. The many hundred of his skins that I have seen are "all they should be", as Hartert states, very well prepared with full data and apparently correctly sexed. At any rate, whether correctly sexed or not, the specimen from Taberghi differs quite distinctly from the female from Kordofan and I believe the differences are too numerous to be merely "individual". Hartert states that "Buchanan says it is a young male", but I cannot account for this statement as Buchanan made no notation that it was immature on his label. It appears to me to be adult as it did to Hartert.

The validity of a substitute name

by S. DILLON RIPLEY

Received 25th May, 1960

In my review of the Thrushes (Postilla, 1952, 1954, No. 13 p. 23 et add. p. 1) I provided a substitute name for an Iranian subspecies of the Blue-throat, *Erithacus svecicus* or, as may be preferred by some authors, *Luscinia svecica*.

The original names involved were as follows:

Cyanecula wolfi magna Zarudny and Loudon, 1904, Ornith. Jahrb. p. 225, Bidesar, Arabistan (=Khuzistan, southwestern Iran *vide* Vaurie, Bds. Pal. Fauna p. 385.)

This name I believe is preoccupied in the genera *Erithacus* or *Luscinia* by: *Philomela magna* Blyth, 1833 (Aug.), Rennie's Field Nat. vol. 1, p. 355, a substitute name for *Sylvia Philomela* "Temminck" = Bechstein, 1802; which see also, Blyth, 1833 (May), Rennie's Field Nat. vol. 1, p. 200, here called *Philomela major*.

In the *Birds of the Palaearctic Fauna*, 1959, p. 385, Dr. Vaurie rejects my substitute name on the basis of Copenhagen Decisions No. 115, I.C.Z.N. 1953, that a name published as a synonym without independent description should be rejected as from some future date when the new International Regles are published. Dr. Vaurie states that *Philomela magna* Blyth 1833 is a *nomen nudum*.

I find I must differ. *Philomela magna* is not a *nomen nudum*. Blyth's paragraph (*tom. cit.* 1833 (May), p. 200) is as follows, referring to the British nightingale:

"This renowned songster is of a size, intermediate, between the thrushes and the warblers; at least, he is much larger than any of our British

warblers; and one of the continental nightingales, the *Sylvia Philomela* of M. Temminck, (or, as I should prefer terming it, the *Philomela major*), is a still larger bird . . .”

In No. 8 of the same journal, 1833, Aug. on page 355, Blyth published a note correcting various *errata* which reads: “line 22, for ‘major’, read *magna* . . .”

This use of the name *Philomela major* (later carefully corrected by the author to *magna*) as a substitute name for the bird called *Sylvia Philomela* by Temminck is not a *nomen nudum*. Blyth gives evidence in the same publication, page 199, of knowing what work he was talking about, the only argument for calling this citation a *nomen nudum*. If we examine Temminck’s Manuel d’ Ornithologie, 1820, éd. 2, tome 1, p. 196 and p. 197, we find the Bec-fin Philomèle, *Sylvia Philomela* (Becht.) 1802, an identifiable species. On page 197 Temminck discusses the Bec-fin Soyeux, *Sylvia sericea* (Natter, ex MS.), described and therein validated for the first and only time.

Turning back to Blyth, on page 199 of the May issue of Rennie’s Field Naturalist Blyth says: “taken conjointly, and altogether, they seem to intimate, that our nightingale, with the *Sylvia Philomela* and *S. sericea* of M. Temminck, (species closely resembling it), possess sufficient peculiarities to warrant their being placed as a distinct genus”. This latter name in conjunction with the former places Blyth’s current reading material exactly.

As an example of the validity of a name used in this fashion, I refer to Zimmer and Vaurie, (1954, Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl. vol. 74, p. 41) in which these authors state that *Pnoepyga* and *Oligura* created by Hodgson in 1844 (Zool. Miscellany, p. 82) are not *nomina nuda* by reason of not being described, but are in fact valid genera as they are associated by citation with valid species.

Thus if on the one hand *Pnoepyga* and *Oligura* are said to be valid by Dr. Vaurie by citation and association, then obviously *Philomela magna* Blyth a correction for *Philomela major* Blyth, a substitute name for *Sylvia Philomela* “Temminck” = Bechstein, a valid species, is also not a *nomen nudum*. Thus I believe *Cyanecula wolphi magna* Zarudny and Loudon is a junior secondary homonym of *Philomela magna* Blyth and as such deserves a substitute name. This name I proposed in Postilla, (*tom. cit.*) as *Erithacus svecicus luristanicus*.

I am grateful to Mr. H. G. Deignam for help with Rennie’s publication which is not at Yale.

On the Clamorous Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus* (Hemprich & Ehrenberg) in Eritrea

by K. D. SMITH

Received 10th August, 1960

Heuglin originally obtained this species in Eritrea, where he found it breeding in June. The nest was in the fork of a branch in a thick mangrove swamp on the coast, and contained three fresh eggs. The birds sung there all through the summer months. Kittenberger states that he obtained a